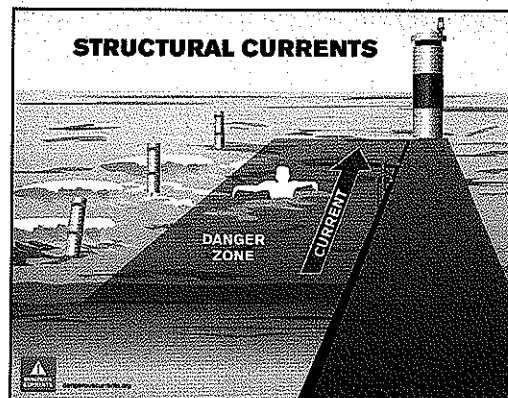
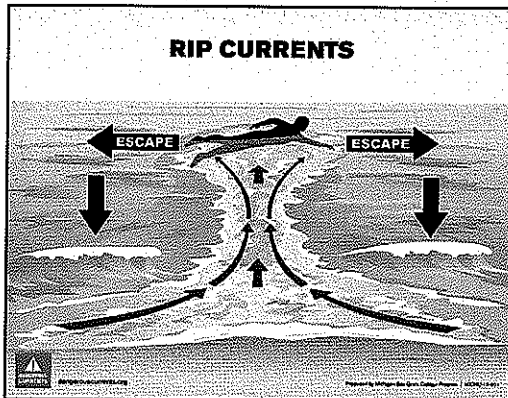


Water Safety Equipment, Tools and Training

www.dangerouscurrents.org



Impacts

- Improving State of Michigan Beach Policy
- Deploying hundreds of throw rings, life jackets and other emergency rescue and water safety equipment.
- Fostering a water safety research and education network in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and Minnesota.
- Developing a new water safety training program for DNR staff.

Guiding the Implementation of a Beach Hazard Communications Strategy

The implementation of a Beach Hazard Communications Strategy involved the review of social and natural science research conducted from 2013-2014. Also, feedback on revisions to existing and new beach signs was an important part of the design process. Final designs were based on observations of specific Department of Natural Resources park staff, data from the National Weather Service and social science data. Part of the communications strategy is to help reduce the number of people swimming near or jumping off piers.

- Survey participants indicated decisions to jump off piers were made with friends, often swimming as a group (Lapinski and Viken, MSU, 2014).
- Also, researchers found alcohol use is a factor in risky behavior.
- Survey participants commented on messages and sign graphics. Responses to this study were a key part of the development of a new beach signs and revisions of other signs.
- The flag warning sign was revised and other sign templates — rip currents and structural currents — were developed.

Stay Safe

Attention: Flag Warning System

There are dangerous currents at this beach, and fatalities have occurred.

Red = Stop.
Stay on the beach and out of the water.

Yellow = Caution.
Watch for dangerous currents and high waves.

Green = Go.
But stay aware of changing conditions.

■ A red flag means that there is a high risk of drowning.
 ■ Swimmers: Stay away from piers and other structures.
 ■ Even an Olympic swimmer couldn't win a race with a dangerous current.

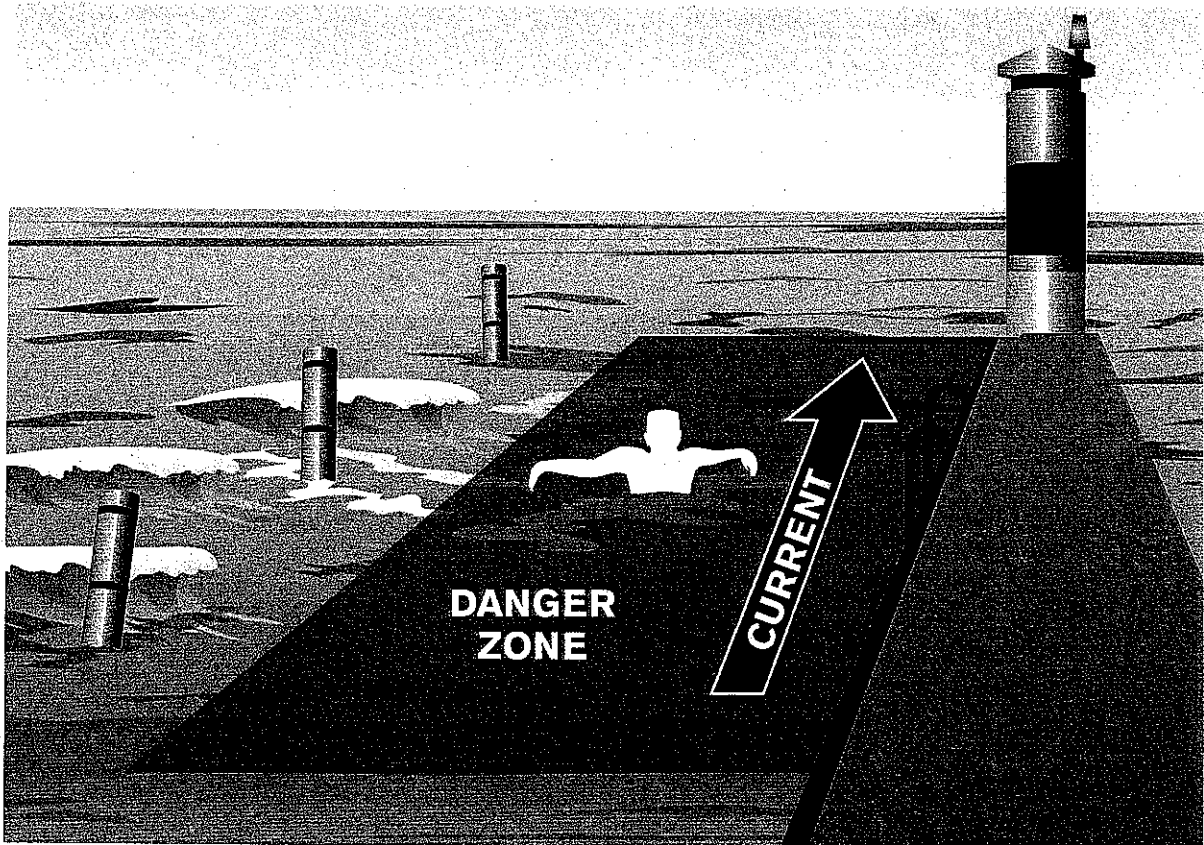
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Resources

- National Weather Service Data from 2002-2014
- Dangerous currents and breaking waves diagrams and descriptions
- Beach Sign Templates
- News-ready Video
- Animation Series
- Targeted Social Media Campaign
- Regional website
- K-12 Lessons
- Water Watcher and Water Safety Tip Cards

Stay Alive

Avoid Piers and Breakwalls



Danger Area – No Swimming Zone

- Swim in designated area, away from this structure.
- If trapped, call for help.
- Call for someone to throw life ring or anything that floats.
- Get to ladder.

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Dangerous Current awareness is part of a state and regional effort led by Michigan Sea Grant in collaboration with the NOAA-National Weather Service, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and others. The MDEQ Coastal Management Program supported the development of many educational programs and public outreach products.

MDEQ-14-730

Dangerous Currents

Avoid Dangerous Areas:

- Stay in designated swim areas.
- Avoid swimming near piers and breakwalls. Many fatalities have occurred.



If trapped in a dangerous current:

- Swim to the side, out of the current, and then to shore.
- If in danger, call for someone to throw a life ring or anything that floats.

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Stay Safe

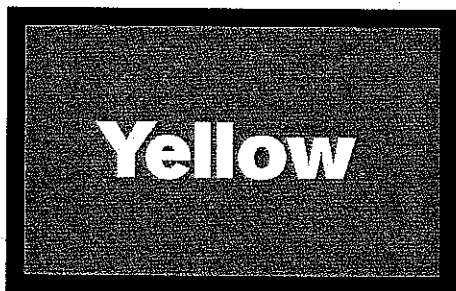
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